



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alaska National Guard Family Programs hosts Youth Summer Camp

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Approximately 40 children of Alaska National Guard members spent a week at Birchwood Camp, participating in activities centered on resiliency, July 7-11.

The ninth annual summer camp was organized and lead by the Alaska National Guard's Child and Youth Program.

Camp events and activities were linked to resiliency using the Sean Covey book, "7 Habits of Happy Kids," according to Joan Boltz, lead Child and Youth program coordinator.

"The book and habits it introduces was a springboard to conversations about personal and interpersonal behavior and its impact," Boltz said. "We were very fortunate to have volunteers daily from the Alaska National Guard who helped out, and the kids greatly appreciated seeing them."

The first day of camp began on base with a group introduction at Camp Carroll located here. The rest of the week was spent engaging the children in a variety of activities out at Birchwood Camp, according to Boltz.

The campers had a variety of activity options to choose from; swimming, boating or field activities.

"We have such an amazing volunteer group who donates their time to shaping the lives of these young individuals."

Specialist Cody Kelsoe, an Alaska Army National Guardsman, volunteered his time to assist in the program because he believes military volunteers are laying a strong foundation for the children's future and setting an example of for military service, having fun, and helping others.

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"It's important that kids have positive military connections outside of their parents," said Kelsoe. "They may want to join the military one day because we made a positive impact and they have good memories of their interactions with us."

The Alaska National Guard's Child & Youth Program organizes more than 60 events annually.

Some remaining summer activities include a teen potluck in Anchorage, an Alaska National Guard Day celebration in Juneau, and a Flattop Mountain hiking trip. For more information, or to sign your child up for an event, contact Joan Boltz at 907-428-6670, or go to Alaska National Guard Child and Youth Program Facebook page.

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Cutlines:

Activities

Child and Youth volunteers lead a group of military children in outdoor activities at Birchwood Camp, July 7-11. The Child and Youth Program's camp centered around resiliency and included various activities to encourage positive behavior using the book by Sean Covey, "7 Habits of Happy Kids." U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Melinda Dawson.

Kelsoe

Spc. Cody Kelsoe, an Alaska Army National Guardsman, volunteered his time to assist in the program because he believes military volunteers are laying a strong foundation for the children's future and setting an example of for military service, having fun, and helping others. The Child and Youth Program's camp centered around resiliency and included various activities to encourage positive behavior using the book by Sean Covey, "7 Habits of Happy Kids." U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Melinda Dawson.

Volunteers

Child and Youth volunteers lead a group of military children to their next activity at Birchwood Camp, July 7-11. The Child and Youth Program's camp centered around resiliency and included various activities to encourage positive behavior using the book by Sean Covey, "7 Habits of Happy Kids." U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Melinda Dawson.